



In a year when Sri Lanka hit news headlines around the world as host of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in November, 2013 also proved to be a significant year for Shining Life's work in Sri Lanka as we continued to work with the children, their families and their communities in our projects. It was fantastic for me, and the projects, to have so many friends of Shining Life come to see our work first hand – thank you, the memories of those visits will live on for a long time for all involved.

During the summer we completed a six month-pilot project working with our project partner the Foundation for Human Development, in three villages near Galewela, central Sri Lanka. We worked with the community to deliver a wide range of training, identify how best they could increase their incomes in the future and establish some strong children's clubs. Based on that work we have now started working with the communities on a full project over the next 3 years that will see a wide range of activities improving education, health and nutrition and providing a wide range vocational training to help families increase their incomes into the future. Thank you to everyone who has supported us and allowed us to start this work.



Children at Ulapane School, Kandy District

Our Empowering Communities in Kandy District Project is reaching its conclusion. It is a sad time when we finish working with communities as we always forge strong emotional ties, but it is wonderful to see the transformation that has been achieved. The children's clubs and saving schemes are strong enough to work without our support, the new community hall in Denmark Village is built and now offering a safe and friendly environment that is well used by all. The families are beginning to use the new vocational skills that they have learned to earn a better income and really build that brighter future that we have all been working towards.

2013 also saw Shining Life successfully launch our first volunteer scheme. Marcia Summers spent three weeks in the summer working with the Women's Development Centre in Kandy, providing the project leaders with a wide range of training that we are already seeing the benefits of in their everyday work. We are now looking forward to launching our 2014 volunteer scheme early in the New Year and hope that a new group of enthusiastic, skilled volunteers will join us for a few weeks enabling our partner organisations to gain from their skills.

On behalf of the communities we are working with, thank you so much for your support and I wish you and your family a safe, joyful and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2014.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin McParland, Field Director.